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FROM:	Ernest J. Beffel, Jr.
CLIENT/MATTER:	Application No. 09/905,255 (BLFR 1007-1)
DATE:	6 January 2006

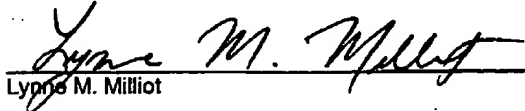
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Atty Docket No.: BLFR 1007-1

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Lynne M. Milliot

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Robert E. DVORAK et al.

Application No. 09/905,255

Confirmation No. 4408

Filed: 13 July 2001

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PLANNING ANALYSIS**

Group Art Unit: 2121

Examiner: Joseph P. HIRL

CUSTOMER NO. 22470

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

In connection with the interview held with Examiner Hirl on Thursday, 6 October 2005, in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby submit this Statement of Substance of Interview. Prior to the interview, we submitted a proposed agenda, the substance of which is reproduced below:

The spirit of this interview is to advance the case towards allowance. Applicants participated in a telephone interview on 31 May 2005 with the Examiner and sensed that progress can be made. Applicants are prepared to offer amendments after discussion of the Examiner's suggestions, if necessary. Applicant would like to discuss with the Examiner the best way to advance the case towards allowance.

Issues for the interview include:

1. Agree on a definition of "simulation" to be applied in the case.

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2. Agree on meaning of "planned transaction pricing".
3. Review attached slide show that was previously presented to Examiner Van Doren.
4. Any amendments that would allow the claims to proceed to allowance.

During interview, we discussed Examiner Hirl's experience with simulations, including real time simulation and ray tracing of torpedo performance.

Applicants offered a claim draft that Examiner Hirl appreciated. The claim that seemed agreeable was:

A computer-implemented method of simulating unit inventory and unit sales on a bottom-up per location basis for a plurality of items at a plurality of locations, including:

computer-based modeling at a per-item, per-location level and simulating on a daily or more frequent basis of how inventory levels (including stock-outs), simulated deliveries (including lead times for particular locations and deliveries responsive to notional, future orders) and projected demand (taking into account timing of planned promotions) interact for particular items at the particular locations; and

applying planned item pricing to derive simulated dollar inventory and simulated dollar sales of the items at the locations.

Applicants are in the process of preparing an amendment to offer this claim for examination.

Should it be determined that any fees are required with regard to the filing of this document, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (BLFR 1007-1) accordingly. The undersigned can ordinarily be reached at his office at (650) 712-0340 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. PST, Monday through Friday, and can be reached at his cell phone at (415) 902-6112 most other times.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest J. Beffel, Jr.
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Dated: 6 January 2006

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